

Criminal Justice Profession

Student name

Student number

Course title

Submission Date

Introduction

Criminal justice profession is one that is related to the institution of governments and practices aimed at mitigating and deterring crime, enhancing social control and sanctioning those who break the law through rehabilitation efforts or criminal penalties. Basically, criminal justice professionals are aimed at bringing intellectual efforts in assisting the criminal justice system work effectively in the quest of reducing the levels of crimes in a just and fair manner.

Components of criminal justice system

The main components that make up a criminal justice system are courts, police and correctional agencies. The role of the police is to deter crime, arrest the violators of the law and maintain public order. The courts play a role in determining the criminal liability of the suspected offenders submitted to them and mete justice while sanctioning those who have been proven guilty. Correctional services offer post judiciary care top offenders who have been sanctioned to community supervision or confinement by courts (Burns, 2007).

The requirements for one to enter criminal justice professional

The minimal requirement to enter the criminal justice depends on the area that one wants to join, either in the police, the courts or the correctional services (Gibson *et al.*, 2008). Actually, a significant number of people who enter criminal just professionals do not have a degree. For instance, local police officers do not require a degree although they may require some knowledge in post-secondary education such as college credit (Gillis, 2006). However, with the sophistication of crime and increased can for upholding of human rights including the rights of the offender have called for criminal justice professionals to undertake higher studies and

become degree holders. The common degree that is common and most appropriate for the criminal justice professionals is criminology, social work, law and other related degrees. People who enter the force without degree education can pursue them while working, which is vital in enhancing their competence and increasing their earnings (Burns, 2007).

Experience in criminal justice and the general practice of law is important for some profession within the criminal justice system. For instance, Judges and magistrates are required by law to have immense experience in matters relating to criminal justice, to ensure that they render their services skillfully and wisely (Kemshall, 2003).

Other requirements to join the system are being devoid of criminal past, should be able to adhere to ethical principles and must be fully conversant with the law especially those relating to criminal justice (Burns, 2007).

Personality trait needed of a criminal justice professional

Just like any other career, there are several personality traits that a criminal justice professional must have. One must be reasonable in all his or her undertaking. In most cases, criminal justice involves many stakeholders, such as the criminals, policymakers, the victim and human rights agents. In this case, a reason should prevail among the criminal justice professionals to ensure that each stakeholder's rights are upheld and law followed to ensure that justice is achieved. Being reasonable entails using the appropriate force to apprehend the criminals and use ethical means when collecting evidence to ensure that no one is mistreated or coerced to give evidence (Gibson *et al.*, 2008).

Fairness is an important ethical value in the criminal justice system. It ensures that every party receives justice on the intensity of the offense committed. In this case, the criminal justice

professional should be able to hear both parties, determine where the problem is and with the assistance of the law, make an apt decision concerning the case. In this case, professionals such as magistrates and judges should never be partisan or biased and should deliver their verdict on the basis of evidence and case arguments rather than the traits, social class or ethnicity. Further to this, the criminal justice professionals should be in the in the forefront of advocating for a fair and just system (Burns, 2007).

The professionals in the criminal justice should exhibit and apply common sense in all situations. Given that they are vital elements in enforcement and supervision of law, they should ensure that everyone is served to the best level and should avoid issues of personal interest and bias to ensure professionalism and responsibility in the profession (Gillis, 2006).

The benefits of justice system professionals

The benefits are usually high given that criminal justice system ensures order in the society. The benefits depend on the education level, workplace experience and the ranks of individuals. For instance, judges are more likely to be paid higher than the court clerk. The benefits depend on the country of jurisdiction and are usually updated with time depending on the economic and legal changes in nations (Gibson *et al.*, 2008).

Challenges facing criminal justice professionals

Just like any other professionals, the criminal justice professionals are bound to encounter several challenges, both systemic and individual. Systemic challenges may occur where the set laws fail to support the basic principle of criminal justice of fairness. The laws may favor some groups while discriminating others, thus defeating the purpose of justice. For instance, in some nations, dominant groups are by law given preference in the criminal justice more than others,

and this may result in resentment meted against the criminal justice professionals who may be perceived as biased. The criminal system may condone some unethical practices such as corruption and bribery, which may taint the image of the professionals and could lose public confidence and trust (Roberson & Mire, 2010).

On the individual level, some people may be biased when in the line of duty. Some professions may abdicate their professional and ethical responsibilities to pursue their personal or selfish interest, thus jeopardizing the objective of providing fair services to the public (Gibson *et al.*, 2008).

Conclusion

Criminal justice professionals are vital in ensuring social order and hence, they must uphold their ethical and legal requirements. Criminal justice professionals work in courts, police departments and correctional services and strive to ensure that justice is granted to both the victims of crime and the offenders. For the professionals to remain competent, they must continuously develop their career through further education and in job learning, which enhances their experience and skill level to work effectively.

References

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